

APRIL 1980

18016

Our next meeting and social hour will be held on Sunday, April 20, at 2:00 p.m. in the Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley (NOTE: 3rd Sunday instead of 4th). Featured will be the short film "Gay, Proud and Sober", about gay alcoholics, and a related discussion will follow. Showings of this same film with speakers are also being held the same weekend in Reading at the AA Clubhouse, 26 N. 6th, 3rd floor, at 3 and 8 p.m. on April 19 and at 2:30 and 8 p.m. on April 20. Our May 18 meeting will feature speaker Molly Rubenstein with a program on feminism.

We are pleased to report that the group has raised \$130 specifically for the Pennsylvania Sodomy Statute Reform Campaign, scheduled this month as a hearing before the State Supreme Court. The case revolves around arrests made of employees of the Penthouse Burlesque Theatre in Pittsburgh for sex acts allegedly performed by dancers and audience members. Pre-trial arguments in March 1979 led to Allegheny County Court Judge George Ross declaring the sodomy statute unconstitutional in July 1979. In November the ACLU of Pennsylvania filed a brief in support of Judge Ross's opinion. The constitutional issues at stake are whether the voluntary deviate sex statute falls within a constitutionally protected area (private consensual sex between adults), and whether a statute based solely on marital status (since oral and anal sex are illegal only for two "unmarried" persons) violates the equal protection clause of both the U.S. and the state constitution.

NOTES\*\*\*\*\*Watch for the new film Nijinsky, which treats the life of the legendary dancer, including the triangle of his wife and his manager, the legendary impresario Diaghelev. The latter is played by Alan Bates and the title role by the relatively unknown ballet dancer George de la Pena.\*\*\*\*\*

Comments on the realm of political candidates: John Anderson supports a national gay rights bill and an executive order banning discrimination against gay people. So does Ted Kennedy, but with less firmness. Carter stands on the steps he's already taken, and is lukewarm about the issue. Although Reagan opposed Proposition 6 in California, he is openly hostile to gay issues and gay people. For Pa. Attorney-General, Walter Philipps is supportive of gay issues, while Michael O'Pake has voted as a legislator for anti-gay bills. Locally, most candidates have expressed some support for gay issues, with Reibman and Krasja probably the most firm. Reibman also supports abortion rights, while Krasja is opposed. \*\*\*\*\* The National March in Washington on April 29, while supposedly reflecting only the religion of Christian fundamentalists, is seen by many as a mask for political muscle of the "New Right" aimed against women's rights, gay rights, abortion, etc. \*\*\*\*\*Old friend Anita is busy mailing questionnaires like the one here.

[illegible]

- (1) Do you approve of legislation allowing known practicing homosexuals to teach in public, private and religious schools?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Undecided ☐

- (2) Do you favor stricter laws controlling child pornography?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Undecided ☐

- (3) Do you favor the elimination of "R" rated movies from television and stricter controls governing sex and violence on TV?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Undecided ☐

- (4) Do you favor prayer back in schools?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Undecided ☐

Clip and mail, if you wish, to:

Anita Bryant Ministries  
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Further info on anything:  
call Bob Steelman  
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